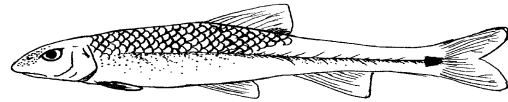


Spotfin Chub

Cyprinella monacha



D. Marbain

Description - The spotfin chub is only found in the Tennessee River drainage system in Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina. It no longer occurs in Alabama and Georgia. In Virginia, the chub is only known to occur in the North and Middle Forks of the Holston River in Scott, Smyth, and Washington Counties. Young and juveniles are gray on the top and sides, have a green stripe, and pale fins. Adults of this fish are green on top and silver on bottom with pale fins and may grow up to 3.5 inches in length. Adult males are larger than females. During breeding, the males turn a metallic blue on top and the fins have white margins.

Life History - The spotfin chub inhabits clear, warm, medium to large streams with swift currents. Usually these streams have boulder, bedrock, rubble, or gravel substrates. Maturity occurs at two years of age but some individuals may spawn at one year. The spawning season is from May to August. Females lay eggs in crevices and cracks and several groups of eggs are produced

in one spawning. Breeding sites are in areas with a moderate current and unsilted rubble and boulders. After spawning, the adults protect the nest and defend it from intruders. The chub's diet is primarily immature aquatic insects.

Conservation - The spotfin chub was federally listed as a threatened species on September 9, 1977. Federally designated critical habitat for this fish in Virginia is the North Fork Holston River in Scott and Washington Counties. Critical habitat is the specific areas essential to the conservation of the species. The range of this species may have been more continuous prior to extensive deforestation and stream impoundments. Threats are siltation, coal sedimentation, pollution, stream channelization, habitat degradation, chemical dumping, releases of cold water from reservoirs, inundation from reservoir development, and interspecific competition. Collecting may significantly reduce local subpopulations.

What You Can Do To Help - If you reside on property that borders a stream or other waterway, avoid using chemicals or fertilizers. To help control erosion and reduce runoff, maintain a buffer of natural vegetation along the stream bank. Install fencing to prevent livestock from entering the stream, this will reduce siltation and input of waste products.

To find out more about the spotfin chub contact:

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References

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